

March 13, 1974

know who the leader is.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Who's the leader? Who's the leader?

SENATOR SYAS: I don't know.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Who's the whip?

SENATOR SYAS: I don't know.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Are they....you know....they're not there. He's.....

SENATOR SYAS: Who's the whip in the Democrat party in New York?

SENATOR FELLMAN: No, I'm not talking about New York. I'm talking about the U. S. Senate.

SENATOR SYAS: Well, who's the....oh....you.....

SENATOR FELLMAN: The point I'm.....thank you, Senator. That concludes my question. I'd like to just make a comment about your proposed amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Syas. Senator Fellman has the floor.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature. It seems to me that there's a very simple....if this amendment....if this constitutional amendment is passed and we have a partisan Legislature that is Republican and Democrat, anybody that wants to run as an Independent would have, if anything, an easier chance of getting his name on the ballot in November. He would merely start out on a petition drive in a relatively small area. The procedure is simple and he would be listed on the ballot. He would then come to this Legislature as an Independent which means that he is not a member of any existing political party. Being an Independent does not mean that he is only...that he is neither a Republican or Democrat. It means that he is neither a Republican or Democrat nor a member of the former Labor party that existed in Minnesota or the Conservative party that exists in New York State or the Liberal party that exists in New York State or any other party that the mind of man and the political powers of individuals could form. Now, if there is a third, fourth or fifth political party formed, someone can run through the Primary process and be the nominee of that party. This amendment in its pure form that Senator Stromer is talking about fully protects the rights of the Independent voter. What Senator Syas' proposed amendment really does is knock the guts out of the amendment and if he wants to kill it, fine. I think the amendment of Senator Syas should be defeated because it doesn't accomplish, it plays havoc with the idea itself. I think we should vote up or down on the proposal to make this Legislature partisan and to pass that question on to the public. And let the voters decide. I personally support the idea of letting the voters decide once and for all whether this Legislature should be partisan and I would like to go back, if I may, for a moment and separate out the ideas of the Unicameral with the partisanship. They are totally different questions. There's no reason on earth why this house can't remain a one house legislative body. A Unicameral body with political parties here or without. The questions are separate. It seems to me from my scattered knowledge of history that the real reason this house is non-partisan goes